AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A message exchange connected to a public switched telephone network including a plurality of subscribers, comprising:

an address module configured to store a plurality of lists with subscriber identifications, each list being assigned to at least one of the subscribers;

a receiving module configured to receive a spoken message from one of the subscribers in the telephone network via the telephone network, the one of the subscribers being a transmitting subscriber, and to store the spoken message with an identification of the transmitting subscriber;

a speech recognition module configured to enable the transmitting subscriber to designate by means of spoken language at least one of the other subscribers as an addressee to whom the spoken message is addressed, and configured to enable the transmitting subscriber to edit the ~~plurality of lists~~ list assigned to the transmitting subscriber by means of spoken language;

a transmission module configured to transmit the stored message by means of an automatic call to the addressee, and to inquire if a reply is to be sent from the addressee to the transmitting subscriber; and

a reply module configured to receive and to store the reply from the addressee.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The message exchange according to claim 19, wherein the speech recognition module is further configured to enable the transmitting subscriber to create and administer at least one of the lists by means of spoken language.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The message exchange according to claim 19, wherein each subscriber identification includes a name of one of the subscribers.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The message exchange according to claim 19, wherein each subscriber identification includes a call number of one of the subscribers.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The message exchange according to claim 19, wherein at least one of the subscriber identifications is stored as a voice signal.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The message exchange according to claim 19, further comprising:

at least one tariff table, wherein the transmission module refers to the at least one tariff table to transmit messages at times having economical tariffs.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The message exchange according to claim 19, further comprising:

a table with statistical information on the traffic load in the telephone network, wherein the transmission module refers to the table to transmit messages at times of low traffic load.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The message exchange according to claim 19, wherein the reply module is configured to receive a reply from the addressee, and to store and transmit the reply to at least the transmitting subscriber.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The message exchange according claim 19, wherein at least one of the lists contains access rights.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A method of handling spoken messages in a public switched telephone network having a plurality of subscribers, the method comprising:

storing a plurality of lists, with subscriber identifications, in a message exchange connected to the telephone network, each list being assigned to at least one of the subscribers;

receiving in the message exchange a spoken message from one of the subscribers in the public switched telephone network via the public switched telephone network, wherein the one of the subscribers is a transmitting subscriber;

storing the spoken message and an identification of the transmitting subscriber;

designating to the message exchange at least one of the other subscribers as an addressee by means of spoken language;

identifying an address of the addressee by use of a speech recognition module and at least one of the plurality of lists;

editing the list assigned to the transmitting subscriber ~~plurality of lists~~ by the transmitting subscriber by means of spoken language;

transmitting by means of an automatic call with the message exchange the spoken message to the addressee;

inquiring the addressee to determine if a reply is to be sent to the transmitting subscriber; and

receiving and storing, by means of the message exchange, the reply from the addressee when the reply is to be sent.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 28, wherein at least one of the subscriber identifications is stored as a voice signal.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 28, further comprising:

storing status information concerning the transmission of the spoken message to the addressee; and

retransmitting the spoken message if it is not successfully transmitted during a first attempt.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 28, further comprising:

monitoring at least one tariff table; and

transmitting the spoken message at an economical tariff time based on monitoring of the at least one tariff table.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 28, further comprising:

storing statistical information on a traffic load in the telephone network in a table; and

transmitting the spoken message at a time of low traffic load based on the stored statistical information.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 28, further comprising:

transmitting the spoken message via the Internet.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 28, further comprising:

receiving the reply from the addressee;

storing the reply in the message exchange; and

transmitting the reply to at least the transmitting subscriber.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 28, wherein the transmitting subscriber administers at least one of the lists by means of spoken language.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable data carrier comprising:

a computer program to be executed by a processor controlling a message exchange connected to a telephone network having a plurality of subscribers, wherein when said computer program is executed, the message exchange performs steps including,

storing a plurality of lists with subscriber identifications, each list being assigned to at least one of the subscribers,

receiving a spoken message from one of the subscribers via the telephone network, wherein the one of the subscribers is as transmitting subscriber,

storing the spoken message and an identification of the transmitting subscriber;

storing an addressee subscriber identification associated with an addressee provided to the message exchange from the transmitting subscriber by means of

spoken language, wherein the addressee is another one of the subscribers or a group of the subscribers;

editing the list assigned to the transmitting subscriber ~~plurality of lists~~ by the transmitting subscriber by means of spoken language;

identifying an address of the addressee based on the addressee subscriber identification by use of a speech recognition module and at least one of the lists;

transmitting by means of an automatic call the spoken message to the addressee;

inquiring the addressee to determine if a reply is to be sent to the transmitting subscriber; and

receiving and storing the reply from the addressee when the reply is to be sent.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The message exchange of claim 19, wherein the receiving module is further configured to determine an identification of the transmitting subscriber.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The message exchange of claim 19, wherein the receiving module is further configured to determine an address of the addressee based on the identification of the transmitting subscriber and on one of the plurality of lists corresponding to the transmitting subscriber.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 28, further comprising:

determining an identification of the transmitting subscriber.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 28, wherein the identifying further includes determining an address of the addressee based on the identification of the transmitting subscriber and on one of the plurality of lists corresponding to the transmitting subscriber.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The computer-readable data carrier of claim 36, wherein when said computer program is executed, the message exchange further performs:

determining an identification of the transmitting subscriber.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The computer-readable data carrier of claim 36, wherein when said computer program is executed, the message exchange further performs:

determining one of the plurality of lists that corresponds to the transmitting subscriber based on the identification of the transmitting subscriber.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The computer-readable data carrier according to claim 36, wherein the message exchange steps further include:

monitoring at least one tariff table; and

transmitting the spoken message at an economical tariff time based on monitoring of the at least one tariff table.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): A message exchange according to Claim 19, wherein the address module is further configured to be accessed via the internet to edit the plurality of lists.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): A message exchange according to Claim 19, wherein the reply module is configured to receive the reply from the addressee, said reply being sent by the addressee by means of spoken guidance.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): A method of handling spoken messages according to Claim 28, wherein the reply from the addressee is sent by the addressee by means of spoken guidance.

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable data carrier according to claim 36, wherein the reply from the addressee is sent by the addressee by means of spoken guidance.